

WATCH THIS SPACE 6 PROGRAMME REPORT 2009-10

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

engage has delivered Watch this Space, the gallery education-focused part of the Learning Links national placement programme for six years. The pilot phase and subsequent four rounds of Watch this Space (March 2004- March 2009) supported by MLA through Strategic Commissioning, provided professional development opportunities to 89 teachers, five teacher trainees, 46 host galleries and 60 artists and gallery educators. Over 100 schools have been involved. The partnerships enabled visits to galleries of over 3,000 young people aged 6-18 years, from widely diverse backgrounds and with a range of learning abilities, most of whom were first time visitors. The resources developed and relationships built have introduced thousands more school students from previously non-visiting schools to their local galleries. Watch this Space partnerships have provided opportunities for students to engage with contemporary art to meet the requirements of a range of curriculum subjects including English, maths, science, history, geography, citizenship, dance and the built environment, as well as art and design and media.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Watch this Space 6 provided a programme of placements for teachers, trainee teachers and early career gallery education staff to:

- Refresh and re-inspire experienced teachers and trainee teachers of all subjects who do not regularly visit galleries, through the provision of gallery placements, enabling them and their students to experience the benefits of learning in, and in partnership with, a cultural organisation, through engagement with contemporary visual arts practice.
- Enable early gallery education professionals-educators in galleries and freelance artists, to learn about, and engage with, curriculum requirements through placements in schools and to develop a gallery education project and personal arts practice in line with these.

Focus for Watch this Space 6: new Key Stage 3 curriculum; the new primary curriculum, cross curricular working; the delivery of the Diploma in Creative and Media; embedding learning in galleries in teacher training courses

Delivery model

- Placement scheme which enables peer learning, discussion, mentoring and reflection
- Additional contextual training sessions on ECM, Children's workforce and education delivered through Children's Services, MLA, (MLA Self Assessment Framework) Teaching Outside the Classroom and gallery education departments.

ACTIVITY 2009-10

Ten galleries hosted 16 teachers from 15 schools and seven initial teacher

trainees from three Initial Teacher Education Institutions - two primary, four secondary and one trainee for the Diploma in Creative and Media. Ten gallery educators and artists were on placement in schools. Nine in secondary schools, one in a primary school.

Participating Galleries and Studio Groups: Derby Quad, James Hockey and Foyer Galleries, MIMA, Modern Art Oxford, Orleans House Gallery, South London Gallery, Spacex, John Hansard Gallery, Northern Gallery of Contemporary Art, Lady Lever Art Gallery, Embroiderers Guild, Burton Museum and Art Gallery, Devon; Craft Central, London; The Malthouse, Space Studios, London and Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts.

Participating HEIs: University of Sunderland: trainee in Diploma in Creative and Media; Liverpool John Moores University: four trainees PGCE Art and Design; University of Southampton: two primary.

Student visits

Around 700 school students visited galleries. The lower than expected number is a result of two factors: working with trainee teachers reduces the number of student visits as a trainee must accompany a teacher and their class or two trainees often work with one teacher and one class. Working with Local authority Children's Services where only small groups of vulnerable or special needs young people are able to make visits substantially reduces visitor numbers, but also increases impact on individuals.

FOCUS

The Cultural Offer and Meeting Find Your Talent objectives

Watch this Space provided opportunities for teachers and gallery educators to work together in both schools and galleries, enabling students to access cultural institutions, cultural activity and learning, supporting the development of an infrastructure for a Cultural Offer to young people. Participants in the programme came from all nine English regions enabling young people and their teachers to benefit from tailored cultural provision delivered by galleries across England.

Excellence, innovation and risk taking

The activities delivered by gallery educators and artist educators involved risk taking and innovation, and this was shared with and modelled to teachers, during training events, gallery visits and in the classroom, as well as with participating young people.

Sustainability

80% of schools and galleries in Watch this Space 6 reported the intend to continue the relationship through student visits, student exhibitions and online groups, as well as through teacher involvement in gallery professional development activity, contributing to resources and as representatives on gallery teachers' forums. Artists and gallery educators report improved work opportunities and career advancement.

The New National Curriculum

Ian Middleton, HMI for Art and Design gave a presentation at the opening Watch this Space training event for teachers and gallery hosts in September 2009. He

demonstrated the important role of gallery educators and artists in delivering the new KS3 and 4 National Curriculum by providing access to the world of the arts, enabling young people to “think and act like artists”, providing opportunities for work related learning and in the delivery of cross-curricular work.

Work Related Learning and the Diploma in Creative and Media

120 students were involved in work related learning in five galleries and studios across both sides of the programme. 65 students, three teachers and one teacher trainee worked with three organisations to deliver the Diploma in Creative and Media. Resources for future delivery of the diploma were produced and all organisations have agreement to continue work with the teachers.

Working with Local Authority Children's Services

Spacex gallery hosted a teacher and students from a Secure Unit school. The work made by the vulnerable young people had artistic value, built their self esteem and contributed to a qualification. The fanzine about the gallery that they produced, and continue to produce, has enabled communication with their peers beyond the unit, and has brought the teacher, formerly isolated, into the wider learning community.

Embedding learning in galleries in teacher training courses

The seven teacher trainees reported that they now understand and value the opportunities learning in galleries bring to their pupils outside and in the classroom.

Cross-curricular working

Subjects addressed through gallery visits and engagement with contemporary art and new media included KS2 literacy, KS4 drama, as well as Art and Design and Media at all key stages

MLA Partnership Self Assessment Framework Gallery educators and artists used the MLA Self Assessment Framework to identify their training needs in relation to the Every Child Matters Common Core Skills Framework, and reflected on these at the end of the programme.

Building Workforce Capacity

Artists and gallery educators involved in Watch this Space 6, have reported success in finding new work in schools including starting teacher training, and with other visual arts organisations. Teachers and gallery hosts build partnerships to deliver effective gallery education to students.

All participants in Watch this Space become members of engage, thus Watch this Space contributes to the engage annual membership survey where research into the training needs of the engage membership is undertaken. This information informs the content of the engage Continuing Professional Development offer to gallery and museum educators at all career levels, and to a broad spectrum of workers involved in the delivery of youth programmes through engagement with the visual arts, including teachers, local authority cultural workers, youth workers and others working in the voluntary sector.

DISSEMINATION

- A new Watch this Space mini-site was created on the engage website in June 2009 providing expanded access to case studies, reports and resources developed through the programme. Case studies from Watch this Space 6 will be uploaded in March/April 2010.
- The Ofsted report *Drawing Together: art, craft and design in schools*, published in April 2009, describes Watch this Space as a 'very successful' contributor to professional development for teachers, that the partnerships formed 'encouraged students who would not normally visit galleries to do so regularly' and that 'teachers at all stages of their careers, saw the opportunity to develop new teaching approaches in unfamiliar contexts as a significant turning point in their work.' See www.ofsted.gov.uk
- Jane Sillis, Director of engage, gave a presentation about the work of engage including Watch this Space at the NSEAD conference in April 2009
- Case studies from Watch this Space 6 will be presented by participants at engage Continuing Professional Development events including a day seminar on craft and Work Related Learning
- The nine Area Groups of engage, in the nine English regions, will be offered the opportunity to host CPD events on developing school/gallery partnerships with presentations by Watch this Space participants.
- An article by Watch this Space participant Sandra Hiatt, PGCE course leader, Liverpool John Moores University will be published in the International Journal of Art and Design Education. Articles by gallery educator participants and teachers are planned for the primary and secondary journals of the NSEAD.
- The impact of Watch this Space is to be evaluated alongside en-quire, the other engage Strategic Commissioning programme, by an external evaluator Spring 2010.
- Shared MLA/engage advocacy events and evaluation

PARTICIPANTS' QUOTES

WTS6 has been the perfect stepping stone in my career and has already helped me gain work where in the past I have been unsuccessful.

-Freelance artist educator

WTS6 has been a fantastic experience - enjoyable, interesting and pivotal in my developing the knowledge, experience and confidence necessary to further my practice as an artist educator.

-Freelance gallery educator who has secured two new contracts since participating in WTS 6

WTS 6 has supported the development of our curriculum, especially in the light of the Rose report and the Cambridge report. It has made me focus more on ensuring that there is a progression of skills that allow children to respond to and create art with more confidence. We need to improve the balance between quality experiences/activities and explicit skills teaching.

-Primary teacher, KS2

As a trainee teacher it has been brilliant to observe first-hand the opportunities there are available for schools to work in partnership with galleries and arts organisations. It has given me lots of ideas for using art in the classroom.

- Trainee teacher, primary

WTS will definitely affect my working practice as I will try to include gallery studies in my diploma teaching. Taking part in the scheme helped me to understand the role of teachers in the community and the support that the local gallery can give.

- Trainee teacher, Diploma in Creative and Media

WTS 6 gave me a greater insight into how a gallery works, how it is funded and how it can be used to enhance the learning experience inside and outside the classroom. The students gained a great deal of respect and appreciation, knowledge and understanding of the film industry and how this relates to the real world of a work place. They also gained a greater appreciation for contemporary art and the concepts behind it.

Teacher, Diploma in Creative and Media

The gallery was interesting, with some art work that really made you think.

KS4 Diploma student

'Weird, new, out of this world' 'The art work was so cool' 'Extraordinary' 'The artwork was actually very inspiring and it gave me ideas for expressive arts'.

- Expressive Arts students KS4

WATCH THIS SPACE 6: PROJECT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

About 700 direct student visits with hundreds of others reached through new resources, study guides, teacher CPD and peer communication. Eight Galleries (80%) have an agreement from one or more teachers to visit again with their students.

Cross-Curricular working: KS4 Expressive arts, KS1 and 2 literacy, KS1 and 2 citizenship

Gallery educators who gained new work from participation in WTS: one has joined Teach First, one has two new freelance positions, 2 others have gained further work with schools,

Resources: Spacex - fanzine for KS3 and 4 students; Northern Gallery of Contemporary Art (NGCA) - DVD resource for young people; South London Gallery teachers resources to be written by participating teacher, Sainsbury Centre-generic teacher resources

Dissemination Activity: Primary School exhibition in Southampton University School of Education; Spacex WTS outcomes at Cornwall Secondary Art Teachers Conference,

WTS Student Exhibitions: James Hockey Gallery, Burton Museum and Art gallery, South London Gallery Flickr network, NGCA lettering exhibition. October 2010, John Hansard Gallery, Lady Lever Art Gallery - student films April 10

Penny Jones, co-ordinator Watch this Space, March 2010